

REMARKS

A new title has been required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Such a new title has been supplied.

Claims 43-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 43-48 have been rewritten to overcome the rejection.

Claims 1-30, 43-48, and 121-129 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ishii et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,373,452.

With regard to independent claims 1-3 and 7-9, column 13, lines 6-16 of Ishii et al. describe a reset period and the subject is the timing of a and b of Figs. 7 and 8.

Since discharge of W is described as “WHOLE SCREEN WRITE DISCHARGE” in the lower part of Fig. 7 of Ishii et al., this can be confused with a writing discharge. However, the discharge mentioned is a reset discharge for generating discharge simultaneously across the whole screen and is not a writing discharge by an ordinal scanning. Accordingly, Ishii et al. discloses that, in the reset period before writing, the X electrodes, Y electrodes, and address electrode are all finally equalized in potential to make wall charges on all electrodes to approximate zero.

In contrast, the above-noted claims of the present invention are characterized in that the scanning electrode and the sustaining electrode are equalized in potential when a wiring discharge occurs and the scanning electrode and sustaining electrode are equalized in the wall charge amount when a writing discharge ends. Thus, the parts pointed out by the Examiner are quite different in the present invention (the writing period) from Ishii et al., (the reset period).

With regard to claims 4-6 and 10-12, in Ishii et al., there is no description that the initial discharge of sustaining discharge is started by means of an opposed discharge. In Fig. 7, the

potential of the address electrode is raised to a positive potential V_e at the beginning of the sustaining period. Sustaining pulses are positive pulses with a potential V_s on the basis of GND potential. Accordingly, making the potential of the address electrode positive is rather considered to make an opposed discharge of the address electrode and X electrode or Y electrode difficult.

With regard to claims 13-18, in Fig. 7 of Ishii et al., the potential of the address electrode is raised to a positive potential V_e at the beginning of the sustain period. However, in the text of Ishii et al., there is no particular description to the effect that the initial discharge of sustaining discharge is started by means of opposed discharge. In Fig. 7, sustaining pulses are positive pulses with a potential V_s on the basis of GND potential. Accordingly, making the potential of the address electrode positive is rather considered to make an opposed discharge of the address electrode and X electrode or Y electrode difficult. In contrast, in the present invention, sustaining pulses with a negative polarity are employed, and making the data electrode potential positive makes it possible to generate an opposed discharge.

With regard to claims 19-24, in Figs. 7 and 8 of Ishii et al., as the Examiner pointed out, in the reset period, wall charges with polarities opposite to each other are formed on the X electrodes and Y electrodes with a timing of "a". However, with a timing of "b", wall charges are eliminated by self-erasing discharges by means of the formed wall charges. Accordingly, a non-wall charge condition is provided at a stage immediately before writing. In contrast, the claims of the present invention indicate a condition of wall charges immediately before writing and provide for forming wall charges with opposite polarities on the X electrodes and Y electrodes in the immediately preceding condition. Accordingly, the present invention and Ishii

et al. differ in the timing of forming wall charges with opposite polarities and are, therefore, completely different techniques.

With regard to claims 25-30, in Ishii et al., a description related to a writing discharge is found in column 13, line 30, to column 14, line 13, wherein the statement, “a write discharge occurs between the X1-Y1 electrodes,” occurs in column 13, lines 59-60. However, the writing discharge mentioned in the present invention has been described as an “address discharge” in Ishii et al., and contents thereof have been indicated in column 13, lines 41-60. Therein, it is disclosed that an address discharge occurs when an electrode potential difference between the opposed Y electrode and address electrode exceeds a discharge start voltage V_{fay} between the opposed electrodes. Then, it is disclosed that “a write discharge” occurs between the X1 and Y1 electrodes by being triggered by the “address discharge”, (column 13, lines 53-60). In contrast, according to the present invention, a drive method is provided, wherein not by generating a writing discharge between the X electrode and Y electrode after generating an opposed discharge, but by a surface potential difference exceeding a discharge start voltage, without an opposed discharge generation, from the first, a surface discharge is generated for writing.

With regard to claims 121-129, the “cell partitions” described in the present invention are, as shown in Figs. 2, 3, 13, and 14, partitions in a direction (line direction of the X electrodes and Y electrodes) parallel to the direction where the X electrodes and Y electrodes run. Thus, these are in a direction orthogonal to the partitions 171-173 shown in Fig. 2 of Ishii et al. Accordingly, Fig. 2 of Ishii et al. is not a drawing showing the contents of the present invention. However, Fig. 31, which has been shown as prior art in Ishii et al., is a drawing where partitions 191-199 in the same direction as that of the present invention have been drawn and formed in central parts of the X electrodes and Y electrodes. Thus, claims 121-124 were cancelled, without

prejudice or disclaimer, in this amendment. Claims 125-129 include claims related to a sectional structure of the partitions and claims related to data electrode shapes and are, therefore, not shown in Fig. 31 of Ishii et al.

CLOSING

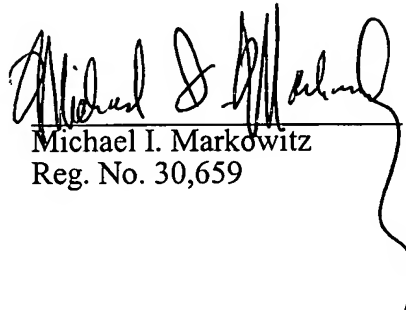
An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claims 1-3, 7-9, 31-36, 49-54, and 125 are in condition for allowance, as well as those claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Please charge Deposit Account 50-1290 the sum of \$1,032.00 for twelve (12) independent claims added by this amendment in excess of the seven (7) independent claims covered by the filing fee paid.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on
Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael I. Markowitz
Reg. No. 30,659

Enclosure: Amended Fig. 9

CUSTOMER NO.: 026304

Phone No.: (212) 940-8687
Fax No.: (212) 940-8986/7
DOCKET NO.:NECF 19.297
MIM:lh